

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-03 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05

INR-07 L-02 TRSE-00 /051 W

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R 171325Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1482

INFO CNO WASHDC

NAVCOMPT WASHDC

NFC CLEV OH

UNCLAS CAIRO 0565

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR PFOR EG

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY CLAIMS FOR DUES AND
SERVICES FOR PRIOR YEAR CANAL TRANSITS

1. DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE HAS RECEIVED FROM SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY (SCA) A BILL IN THE AMOUNT OF LE 23,805.839 FOR WHAT ARE DESCRIBED AS OUTSTANDING INVOICES FOR US NAVY SHIP TRANSITS OF THE SUEZ CANAL, AND FOR SERVICES INCIDENT TO THESE TRANSITS, IN THE YEARS PRIOR TO THE 1967 WAR. SCA REQUESTS IMMEDIATE PAYMENT IN US DOLLARS.

2. EARLIEST OF THESE CLAIMS IS DATED AUGUST 1958 AND MOST RECENT JUNE 1967. A TOTAL OF NINETEEN SHIPS ARE LISTED, AS FOLLOWS: INTREPID, SVOXER, SPIEFEL GROVE, CORRY, BLANDY, FOREST SHERMAN, BACHE, TURNER, THOMAS J. GARY, OCEANOGRAPHER, WILLIAM R. RUSH, SGT MORRIS E. CAIRN, NEW, WILLIAMS, MCCAFFERY, GEARING, MILLS, FISKE AND DYESS.

3. DAO AND EMBASSY FILES REGARDING THESE CLAIMS ARE INCOMPLETE, NO DOUBT DUE TO LONG PERIOD OF TIME WHEN US REPRESENTATION IN EGYPT WAS CONFINED TO SMALL US INTERESTS SECTION OF SPANISH EMBASSY. AVAILABLE RECORDS REFLECT REPEATED SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS BY SCA, AND CONTAIN COPIES OF UNCLASSIFIED

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VARIOUS DOCUMENTS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN SUBSTANTIATING DATA

FROM SHIPS CONCERNED. WE ALSO HOLD COPY OF A US INTERESTS SECTION LETTER OF JANUARY 14, 1970 (UNSERIALIZED, REGISTER NUMBER 594579) IN WHICH A SUMMARY OF THESE OUTSTANDING INVOICES WAS FORWARDED TO COMMANDER US NAVY FINANCE CENTER, CLEVELAND WITH A REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE AS TO WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN. THERE IS NO RECORD HERE OF RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER.

4. EMBASSY CANNOT SUBSTANTIATE VALIDITY OF ABOVE CLAIMS, NOR ESTABLISH WITH ANY CERTAINTY THAT ALL REMAIN UNPAID. IF THESE CLAIMS ARE STILL OUTSTANDING, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS IT BE AUTHORIZED TO SETTLE THEM AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE.

5. PRIOR PAYMENTS FOR CANAL TRANSIT DUES AND SERVICES OF THIS NATURE WERE MADE IN EGYPTIAN POUNDS. WHILE WE SUSPECT THAT PAYMENT OF FEES FOR TRANSIT OF SUEZ CANAL WHEN REOPENED WILL BE REQUIRED IN DOLLARS (OR OTHER CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY), EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT PAYMENT OF THESE CLAIMS, IF AUTHORIZED, SHOULD BE IN EGYPTIAN POUNDS, VICE US DOLLARS AS SCA HAS ASKED. THIS QUESTION WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH SCA, HOWEVER.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLAIMS, DEBT REPAYMENTS, SUEZ CANAL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAIRO00565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750019-0244
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750143/aaaablwc.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <25 Nov 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY CLAIMS FOR DUES AND SERVICES FOR PRIOR YEAR CANAL TRANSITS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006